Every friend of immigration restriction should immediately request their two Senators to insist on the Burnett Immigration bill being voted on at this session of Congress.

AMERICAN FEDERATION OF LABOR
WEEKLY NEWS LETTER

Entered as second-class matter September 18, 1912, at the Postoffice at Washington, D. C., under the act of August 24, 1912.

VOL. 6. NO. 3. WASHINGTON, D. C., SATURDAY, APRIL 15, 1916. WHOLE NO. 263.

Every friend of immigration restriction should immediately request their two Senators to insist on the Burnett Immigration bill being voted on at this session of Congress.

LONG FREIGHT TRAINS MEANS SLOWER SERVICE

Cleveland, April 15.—In a statement issued by the publicity bureau of the four railroad brotherhoods, these workers, who are asking for an eight-hour day in the freight service, with extra pay for overtime, show business men that if railroads practiced actual efficiency a shorter work day could be granted and quicker freight deliveries assured.

The railroads are claiming an eight-hour day is impossible unless freight rates are raised. The employes, in their latest statement, bring out the following points:

To increase their earnings, railroads build freight locomotives with every car they can possibly pull, and cars containing merchandise are held up at terminal points "until enough others cars show up at that terminal point to make a long train."

Shipments from New York city to towns in the middle west pass through from 15 to 20 terminal or division points, with delays at each point.

When these long trains are made up at a division point they are loaded to capacity and drag along at a snail's pace to the next division point.

Under the present 10-hour system there is no penalty for working men overtime. Train crews can be kept on the road 15 hours and 55 minutes, thereby evading the federal 16-hour law. One car of freight added to the train means a greater income to the company, even though it means more delay to the shipper.

An eight-hour day would force the railroads to move their trains faster, and, if necessary, make shorter trains to get them over the road quicker and cut out all unnecessary delays.

The trains service employes conclude their statement:

"If this thing of heavy and more powerful locomotives, cars of greater capacity and longer trains reaches anything like the proportions predicted by prominent railway officials, such as President Willard of the Baltimore & Ohio railroad, the shipping of merchandise will go back to what it was in the old days of the prairie schooner and stage coach, so far as time required in transportation is concerned, as the tendency of railway operation is toward increasing the capacity of trains, regardless of the time required to move over the road. The hours now lost in the slow movement of freight, if saved, would mean millions to the commercial interests of the United States."

GAINS BY GRANITE CUTTERS.

Quincy, Mass., April 15.—International President Duncan of the Granite Cutters' International association reports that new trade agreements have been signed by branches of the international association in the following localities:

Boston, five years, with wage increases of from 35 cents to 60 cents per day.

Wages have been increased 75 cents per day in the following localities: Albany, N. Y., for four years; Clyde, Ohio, for five years; Cincinnati and Freedom, Pa., for three years; Fitzwilliam, N. H., for four years; New Bedford, Mass., Norfolk, Va., and Piqua, Ohio, for one year or longer; three locals in Quincy, Mass., for five years; Norwich, Conn., for four years; Stone Mountain, Ga., for five years; Toronto, Ontario, for two years. In these localities improved sanitary and other working conditions have been secured, in addition to the excellent wage increases.

A one-year contract has been signed by the Salt Lake City branch. Old wage rates of $5 per day is agreed to, but improved working conditions are secured.

LONG TEXTILE STRIKE ENDS.

Nashua, N. H., April 15.—The strike of several hundred employes of the Nashua Manufacturing company and the Jackson Manufacturing company has been settled. The strike started last October when a committee representing 57 employes in the dye house and bleachery of the former company was discharged because they asked that wages be increased to $10.50 in the dye house and $11 in the bleachery. Later the strike spread to the Jackson plant and practically all employes at both places suspended work. These workers were unorganized at the time, but since then many have joined the Textile Workers' union. The strike developed much feeling and now the companies promise to make no discrimination because of strike activity. In the agreement, signed by both companies, it is agreed that "if any employe has a complaint he can go directly, without discrimination, to headquarters, and if he wishes, bring his own interpreter."

PACIFIC MAIL VALUABLE.

New York, April 15.—A report issued by a committee representing stockholders of the International Mercantile Marine company contains amazing figures of the development of this big shipping combination since the war. It is stated that five ships of the Pacific Mail Steamship company were purchased for $5,000,000 and that these steamers are now judged by experts to be worth $10,000,000.

When the Pacific Mail company sold these steamers the seamen's law was held responsible, but the committee's report indicates that this humane legislation did not enter into the transaction, despite contrary claims of ship owners who favor the employment of Chinese and Japanese and who insisted that the sale showed the necessity for the repeal of the act.

INITIATIVE MEASURES LEGAL.

Olympia, Wash., April 15.—Judge Wright of the superior court has refused an injunction against four bills initiated by a joint legislative committee of trade unionists and farmers which will be voted on at the next election. Friends of the measures declare the purpose of their opponents was to gain time and stop the circulating of petitions. The court proceedings, however, has resulted in bringing more clearly to the attention of the voters of the state the character of the opposition to the proposals.

UNION BRINGS BETTERMENT.

Holyoke, Mass., April 15.—The contract of the newly organized Teamsters' union is being generally signed by teaming contractors in this city. The new rates provide for $12 a week for single team drivers, $14 for double team, and $15 for three-horse drivers. Overtime shall be paid at the rate of time and one-half of the regular rate after nine hours. Fourth of July, Labor day, Thanksgiving and Christmas are recognized as holidays.

STATE LITERACY TEST PASSED.

Albany, N. Y., April 15.—The state assembly has passed the Malone bill which provides that all railroad employes connected with the operation of railroad trains, orders, signals and telephone and telegraph communications shall be proficient in the use of the English language.

TOLEDO STREET CAR MEN WIN SWEEPING VICTORY

Toledo, Ohio, April 15.—Street car employes have won their 18 years' fight for the right to join the Amalgamated Street Car Men's union. These workers organized a short time ago and a strike started when the company ordered them not to wear their union button. The city authorities made application to Federal Judge Killets to appoint a receiver for the company. This was not favored by the company because of franchises that it is asking from the common council. The court made several threats to appoint a receiver if the company and its employes did not agree and announced he had selected the receiver, a well-known trade union opponent, who would be instructed to run the lines on a non-union basis, which the court termed the "open shop." These threats had no effect on the strikers.

When the men struck they presented demands for wage increases and recognition of their union. After two weeks the company surrendered and signed an agreement with the union. Wages of motormen and conductors are raised 3 cents an hour. The hours of shopmen are reduced from 10 to 8, with an additional wage increase of 15 per cent. Trainmen have established a minimum day of seven hours, instead of one and two hours that many of them worked heretofore. When they report they will be paid, whether there is work for them or not, and they will receive time and one-half for all time over 10 hours.

Members of the Electrical Workers' union, who joined with the street car men, have secured an eight-hour day to replace the 10 and 12-hour day. Substantial wage increases are also granted the wire men.

As the company refused to import strikebreakers not a single case of violence during the two weeks' strike was reported by the police.

For 18 years attempts have been made to unionize the Toledo street car lines. During this time International President Mahon, International Treasurer Rezin Orr and other officials have been assaulted by company thugs. Constant agitation, however, forced union recognition, wage increases, reduction of hours, better working conditions and arbitration where future differences arise.

PAINTERS RAISE WAGES.

Henderson, Ky., April 15.—Painters, decorators and paper hangers at this place have increased wages 5 cents an hour.

Minneapolis April 15.—Without resorting to a strike, the organized painters have raised wages 5 cents an hour.

Salt Lake City, April 15.—Painters in this city have raised wages 50 cents a day.

Jamestown, N. Y., April 15.—Painting contractors have signed a two-year agreement with Painters' union No. 498. Wages are increased 10 cents a day for the first year and an additional 15 cents the second year.

Grainers, painters, varnishers, rubbers, finishers and first coaters employed by the Dahlstrom Door company have secured a one-year agreement and wage increases of 27 cents a day. These workers are members of Painters' union No. 498.

CAR MEN AVOID STRIKE.

Scranton, Pa., April 15.—A three-year contract calling for increased wages has been signed by the Scranton Street Railway company and the Amalgamated Street Car Men's union. Wages are raised about 11 per cent for motormen and conductors and 10 per cent for barn men and trackmen. The latter are to be provided with rubber boots and rubber coats for use in rainy weather, and it is agreed that in case of lay-offs the last employed shall be the first dismissed.

Scranton, Pa., April 15.—The interurban line operated by the Scranton & Binghamton Railway company has signed a four-year contract with the Amalgamated Street Car Men's union. All trainmen are to be paid 29 cents an hour for the first, second and third years, and 30 cents for the last year of the contract. Regular runs are to be as near nine hours as possible.

STATIONARY FIREMEN WIN.

Boston, April 15.—The Brewers' association has raised wages of its stationary firemen $2 a week.

This makes the rate $22 for a week of six days, eight hours a day, or 48 hours a week. These employes are members of the Stationary Firemen's union, and they are agreed that unionism is the best kind of a dividend producer.

Before they were organized they received $12.25 for a seven-day week, 12 hours a day. The new wage scale shows an increase of $9.75 and a reduction of 36 hours per week.

COMPENSATION FOR WIDOWS.

Altoona, Pa., April 15.—The advantages of the new state compensation law were shown last week in the case of the widows of eight miners killed by an explosion in a mine at Robindale. In less than a week officials of the state insurance fund and the mine management reached an agreement and the widows will receive approximately $25,000. The state officials have advanced the women sufficient money to meet any emergency until the payment of compensation begins.

DOCK WORKERS GET RAISE.

Fall River, Mass., April 15.—Freight handlers at the Fall river steamboat line dock have received wage increases promised if they returned to work. They struck several weeks ago. The old rate was 19 1-2 cents an hour. Now they will receive 23 cents an hour from 5:30 to 7 in the morning and 21 cents from then until 7 at night. They will be paid these rates if the boat is late.

BREWERY EMPLOYES GAIN.

Rochester, N. Y., April 15.—Breweries in this city and representatives of their employes have signed a one-year contract that calls for increased wages for engineers, firemen, coopers, brewery workers and other employes. The men will be paid full time for, but will not be required to work on, holidays. In case they do, double time will be paid.

WANT LESS HOURS.

Boston, April 15.—The Leather Workers on Horse Goods' union has presented a new wage demand to the Master Teamsters' association and corporations employing harness makers. A 53-hour week is asked except in May, June, July, August, September and October, when work shall cease at noon Saturdays.

Cleric-Economist Favors Immigration Bill; Say Opponents Are Selfish and Sentimental

Washington, April 15.—Rev. John A. Ryan, D. D., formerly of Minnesota, but now professor of economics, Catholic University, this city, has declared in favor of the Burnett immigration bill. If this legislation is adopted by congress, he says, "we shall have sufficient legislation to improve the quality, provide for assimilation and protect the standard of life that is required for decent living."

Rev. Ryan's statement, which includes a history of immigration legislation, has been published by the Weekly Press Service of the Social Service Commission, American Federation of Catholic Societies, and is, in part as follows:

The lowered standard of living is the main justification for restriction, and it is probably the reason behind the greater part of the agitation. Between two-thirds and four-fifths of the adult males of the country receive less than $750 a year, and real wages have declined from 10 to 15 per cent since 1890. The great majority of the new immigrants go into the unskilled industries, thereby overstocking the market for that kind of labor, and bringing down wages. They do not become become farmers, as so considerably occurred with the old immigration. The supply of unskilled labor should be reduced. The immigration commission was unanimous on this point.

Among methods of restriction suggested are: The requirement of a contract enabling the immigrant to command living wages; the restriction of the arrivals from any country to a certain per cent of the average emigration from that country during the preceding period of ten years; the division of the immigration countries in groups, and the granting of the privilege of sending immigrants to only one group in one year; and the literacy test. The first three are difficult of administration, while the last was recommended by eight of the nine members of the immigration commission as the best single method of restriction. It would exclude about one-third.

The opposition to restriction is sentimental, or superficial, or selfish. The sentimentalists want America to be kept a haven for the oppressed, but charity begins at home, and we want to keep it a genuine haven, instead of developing a proletariat; and we want to keep it an example of genuine democracy and of a better distribution of wealth than exists in Europe. Thus we can serve humanity better than by enabling a comparatively small proportion of the oppressed of Europe to better their condition very slightly.

The superficial objectors find fault with the literacy test because it does not guarantee character, something that it was not meant to do. It is primarily a method of affecting quantity, not quality. Others denounce it as the outcome of bigotry, but this factor is relatively unimportant in the movement; besides, the device ought to be judged on its merits. It is regrettable that Catholics will not consider more the economic argument for restriction. Others object that the country needs to be developed. If that means that a large group will be worse off than before, the objection is baseless. All the rough work generally done by unskilled foreigners would be done by Americans if they were paid sufficient wages. The immigration commission declared there is a constant oversupply of unskilled labor.

The selfish persons are those who wish to increase production and profits through cheap labor, at less than living wages. They would prefer Chinese and Japanese laborers if they could get them. They do not deserve serious consideration.

SQUALOR OF ALIENS COMMUNITY MENACE

Springfield, Ill., April 15.—Dr. George A. Zeller, alienist for the state of Illinois and a member of the state board of administration, has reported to the board on housing and living conditions of a Mexican colony, in what Dr. Zeller terms "the wretched shantytown" of Silvis, near East Moline, where he discovered a case of leprosy.

He says it is a public duty to call attention to the miserable housing conditions "tolerated and possibly encouraged and invited by the great and wealthy corporations for whom these Mexicans work. The squalor and wretchedness of the surroundings cannot be adequately described."

Dr. Zeller reports that at this place there are a dozen old box cars, sitting flat on the ground with scarcely a window and sometimes only a cinder floor. There is no sanitation and no sewage, while the clang of the shops, shrieking whistles and the roar of the passing trains preclude the thought of rest. The nearest school is miles away and to reach it 20 railroad tracks must be crossed. There is no place for a garden; no flowers, and no playground for the many children.

"Families reared under such surroundings," continues Dr. Zeller, "cannot rise to the level of American citizenship. Measures should be taken to break up this system, which smacks of peonage. Such communities become the breeding places of vice, immorality and illiteracy. If these aliens are competing with citizens who maintain presentable households, or their own homes, then the competition is unfair.

"To my mind the greater infection is that which fastens itself upon the neighborhood and the community in general by reason of tolerating an industrial and social evil which, tolerated by the wealthy corporation, finally comes to be looked upon as a necessity and eventually results in a lowering of civic and individual pride and a degraded standard of living."

CAR MEN WIN SHORT STRIKE.

Washington, April 15.—After a two days' strike motormen and conductors employed by the Washington & Old Dominion railroad have secured recognition of their newly organized union, reinstatement of all strikers, discharge of strikebreakers and a promise by the company to take up grievances within 10 days. This interurban line runs from Washington to the Blue Ridge mountains, a distance of 50 miles. The refusal of the management to treat with the new local of Amalgamated Street Car Men resulted in a suspension of traffic through that section of Virginia.

LIEN LAW HELD VALID.

Columbus, Ohio, April 15.—In throwing out contractors' claims for $10,000 against a bankrupt dry goods company, Federal Judge Sater declared the Ohio mechanics' lien law is vaild and that all such liens must be made in accordance with the law or the claims of contractors, covered by the act, will be disallowed.

The law requires contractors to file with every owner a sworn statement showing names of laborers, material men and subcontractors, the amount due each and likely to become due. Similar statements must be made by material men and subcontractors.

SHINGLE WEAVERS CONFER.

Seattle, Wash., April 15.—At the convention of the International Shingle Weavers' union the 1915 wage scale was adopted, except in one instance. President Brown and Secretary-Treasurer Reid were re-elected. The deliberations of these woodsmen were harmonious.

A FIELD FOR "PREPAREDNESS."

Washington, April 15.—Pellagra caused 8,000 deaths in this country in 1915, according to reports issued by the United States public health service. The development of this disease can be prevented by a cheap and simple diet, the health service experts say.

PATTERN MAKERS RAISE WAGES

Newark, N. J., April 15.—The Pattern Makers' union has raised wages to $5 a day. An agreement has been reached with employers whereby the present scale of $4.25 will be gradually increased until June 1, when $5 will be paid.

FAVOR CHILD LABOR BILL.

Washington, April 15.—The senate committee on interstate commerce has ordered that a favorable report to the senate be made on the Keating-Owen child labor bill.

MACHINISTS REDUCE HOURS.

Alton, Ill., April 15.—Through conferences with the Illinois Glass Works company the Machinists' union has reduced hours at this plant from 54 to 50 per week.

LABORERS RAISE WAGES.

Schenectady, N. Y., April 15.—Laborers' Protective union No. 14,983, affiliated to the American Federation of Labor, has raised wages from $1.88 to $2.40 per day without a strike.

IMMIGRATION BILL REPORTED FAVORABLY

Washington, April 15.—The immigration bill has been reported favorably by the senate committee on immigration. The literacy test and every other major portion of the bill, as passed by the house, has been accepted by the committee, which made record time in considering this legislation.

Last week Senator Smith (South Carolina), chairman of the committee on immigration, told the senate it was not true that his committee intended to hold back the measure. Newspapers have made this statement. Senator Smith said it was the purpose of the committee, "so far as the chairman may speak for it, to proceed as vigorously as possible with this measure, take what action the committee sees fit as to reporting it out, and putting it through the senate at the earliest possible time."

Trade unionists and other persons friendly to this legislation are urged to write their two United States senators and ask them to favor the early consideration of the Burnett immigration bill.

"SMOTHERING DEMOCRACY"

San Francisco, April 15.—Under the above caption the Labor Clarion calls attention to an increasing tendency to control the lives of workers by commissions, investigators, experts and self-constituted regulators, thereby destroying individual independence of action and substituting mastership over the masses by individuals and groups.

"Strange as it may seem," continues the Labor Clarion, "some workers are being deceived into acquiescence by the suave presentation of surface indications by their would-be masters, while others are being bribed so to do by selfish personal advantage.

"In some instances the approach to bondage is being directed along the lines of paternalism in the name of the brotherhood of man. Nowhere, however, in these cunningly devised schemes is real brotherhood distinguished. None of them calculate to do anything for the weak that does not demand compound interest for the strong in the industrial world.

"The sooner the workers cast aside the hope of having something done for them, and proceed to do things for themselves, the better they will be able to live the lives of freemen and the surer they can be of leaving to their children a heritage of liberty and independence such as gives to the individual a degree of control over his own destiny here on earth.

"The best minds in the labor movement are constantly issuing warnings against the workers plunging headlong into the skillfully concealed traps set for them by astute agents of greed, but such advice frequently falls upon deaf ears, and as a consequence large numbers of workers are kept out of the unions and become hopelessly enmeshed in the clutches of greed-dominated employers.

"Every worker should be enrolled under the banner of the American Federation of Labor and determined to travel the path of sound American trade unionism as enunciated by that body during the past quarter of a century. Otherwise dire consequences may be—in fact, strongly seem to be—in store for us.

"If you have not strongly considered this question, look about you, and see what the signs of the times portend—good or evil."

LUDLOW "HERO" OUT.

Denver, April 15.—Adjutant General Chase is no longer connected with the Colorado state militia, as the "hero" of Ludlow stepped down and out last week. Chase's connection with the Ludlow killings is well known, as is his other activities during the recent strike of miners in southern Colorado. These brought the state militia in such bad repute that the federal government, it is said, forced Governor Carlson to oust him.

PAYS COMPENSATION.

Philadelphia, April 15.—The Reading railroad has receded from its position that its employes are under interstate commerce statutes and therefore cannot be effected by the Pennsylvania compensation law. The company has agreed to pay compensation to an injured employe at Cooperstown.

WIRE MEN RAISE WAGES.

Pottsville, Pa., April 15.—Electrical workers have raised wages of inside men 10 cents an hour, secured union recognition and an eight-hour day. The contract will run for one year.

ROCKEFELLER UNION DON'T GET RESULTS

Trinidad, Col., April 15.—Probably No. 26 Broadway, New York, will hear mutterings of discontent from members of the Rockefeller "union," and rather than see the early collapse of this handpicked organization, Mr. Rockefeller may grant a few concessions in an attempt to stay the inevitable.

The Trinidad Free Press shows that the predictions of Mr. Rockefeller and his expensive press agent have not been fulfilled. In the last issue of this paper Editor O'Neill says:

"The vast majority of the miners in the southern coal fields are in abject poverty. Their labor in the mines gives them a hand-to-mouth existence. The conditions that prevail, preclude the possibility of reaching a standard of living fit for human beings, and the mutterings of discontent presage a day not far distant when slaves in the dungeons of the coal mines will serve notice that they are worthy of humane consideration and refuse to wear upon their necks the collar of corporate subjugation. They are becoming weary of rendering obedience to the dictums that come from 26 Broadway, New York, and have grown tired of the circumscribed limits, beyond which they must not go, to be considered desirable citizens and worthy of remaining on a payroll that bequeaths the legacy of a starvation wage and absolute servility to the captains of industry.

"The impoverished victim of corporate cupidity with no protection, save the union organized by Rockefeller and his henchmen, has awakened to the fact that the visit of the son of the richest man in America to the coal fields of Colorado, brought no material prosperity to the robbed, starved and imprisoned victim of the mine, and that Rockefeller, jr., shaking hands with his slaves, munching a luncheon at a miner's cabin, slumbering in a collier's 'nightie' or tripping the light fantastic with the wives, daughters and sweethearts of miners, did not chase the gloom that shrouds the miners' sky with the midnight blackness of adversity."

ABANDON INSURANCE BILL.

Albany, N. Y., April 15.—Senator Mills has abandoned his bill providing for health insurance for employes and has accepted the suggestion of trade unionists that the question be submitted to a special investigating committee which will inquire into all matters concerning sickness and accident not covered by the compensation law.

The Mills bill was championed by the so-called American Association for Labor Legislation and was opposed by President Gompers and the New York trade union movement. The organized workers protested, among other things, against the compulsory visitations to the homes of workers by state officials.

CONCILIATORS APPOINTED.

Columbia, S. C., April 15.—Governor Manning has appointed two members on a state board of conciliation created by the last general assembly. John A. Law represents employers and John L. Davis, a member of the Columbia Typographical union, represents the workers. The law provides that the workers' representative shall be chosen from "a member of a recognized labor union."

NEW LAWS FOR MARYLAND.

Annapolis, Md., April 15.—The state assembly, which has just adjourned its biennial session, passed a mothers' pension law, amended the child labor laws and consolidated the labor agencies of the state. A new system of state control over public education is the best of any state in the Union, its advocates say.

MISSISSIPPI HAS REFERENDUM.

Jackson, Miss., April 15.—A constitutional amendment with initiative and referendum provisions, adopted by the people two years ago, has been ratified by both houses of the Mississippi legislature.

SECURE EIGHT-HOUR DAY.

Rockford, Ill., April 15.—The Sheet Metal Workers' union has secured the eight-hour day and wage increases, to take effect May 1. These gains were made through conferences.

WON'T HELP BREAK STRIKES.

Altoona, Pa., April 15.—The local branch of the state employment bureau has been notified by state officials not to furnish strikebreakers to any person, firm or corporation that is a party to any industrial dispute

COMPROMISE WAGE DEMANDS.

Fall River, Mass., April 15.—The Painters' union has accepted the wage offer of painting contractors to raise wages from 37 1-2 cents an hour to 41 cents. The workers' original demand was 45 cents.

LAUNDRY WORKERS GAIN.

Stockton, Cal., April 15.—The Laundry Workers' union has signed a contract with a large laundry in this city, the first agreement this union has secured since its members were locked out in 1914.

ANCIENT ANTI-STRIKE REMEDY AGAIN URGED

Milwaukee, Wis., April 15.—In a signed article, published in a local newspaper, President Van Hise of the University of Wisconsin suggests that wages of public utility employes be handled by public service commissions in the same manner that capital is regulated. He says "there is no reason why such a commission could not proceed in the case of a labor difference with the same promptness that existing commissions exercise in the matter of railway rates."

The question of wages and standards of living of the various workers could be decided by these commissions, who, President Van Hise believes, should be furnished "expert and statistical aid to enable them to undertake elaborate investigations of the facts bearing upon the economic condition of railway employes." With this information in their possession the question of wages can be "settled" with as much dispatch as a demand of railway managers for higher rates.

"An interstate wage commission" is the solution of this educator against strikes of public utilities and consequent inconvenience of the public. The commission, together with its "expert and statistical aid" would first agree on what constitutes a living standard of, for instance, train service employes. Then, when these train service employes present demands for higher wages, the commission can compare said demands with their figures, properly filed and indexed, and render a decision accordingly

By this simple method strikes would be eliminated, providing, of course, employes agreed that experts or other state-paid professionals are better qualified to set living standards for workers than the workers themselves.

Excepting this slight difference, the ancient anti-strike concoction, dressed up in new terms by President Van Hise, might prove workable—if a remaining vital portion of this "remedy" can be discovered.

JEWELRY WORKERS WINNING.

New York, April 15.—Several members of the Jewelers' Manufacturing association have signed agreements with employes who have been on strike for over two months. The contracts provide for an eight-hour day, extra pay for overtime, and increased wages. The workers are conceded the right to select shop chairmen. Hours are reduced from 53 to 47 per week with no wage reductions.

At a recent meeting of the Jewelers' Manufacturing association the members pledged themselves to resist the demands of their employes. In a public statement the spokesman for the association laughed at the idea of these workers electing shop chairmen. The jewelers insisted on the right "to run their own business," said this employer, who also declared that "most of these employes are now working under the eight-hour system but their officers don't know it."

The strikers are winning, despite this clumsy attempt to create a hostile public opinion.

NEWS FROM DETROIT.

Detroit, April 15.—An arbitration board has raised wages of laundry workers from 50 cents to $1.50 a week.

Brickmakers raised wages 25 cents a day after they had suspended work. Local unionists have assisted them in perfecting an organization.

Pattern makers, who have been on strike for several weeks to enforce new wage rates, are standing firm, despite four injunctions issued against them.

The local federation of labor is conducting a vigorous agitation in favor of initiating an anti-injunction amendment to the state constitution.

Brewery workers have secured a two-year agreement with wage increases.

The federation of labor will start a labor forward movemet.

GAINS BY CARPENTERS.

Coal City, Ill., April 15.—The Carpenters' union has raised wages 10 cents per hour, making the new rate 50 cents. The work day has been reduced from nine to eight hours.

Duluth, Minn., April 15.—Carpenters' union has increased wages 7 1-2 cents an hour, to take effect May 1.

Enid, Okla., April 15.—Building contractors have increased wages of carpenters 5 cents an hour. A strike threat by the Carpenters' union was a factor in this transaction.

800 STRIKE AT YOUNGSTOWN.

Youngstown, Ohio, April 15.—About 800 employes of the General Fireproofing company struck because the management discharged active members of the newly-formed Sheet Metal Workers' union. Some of the victimized men have been working for the company for eight years.

Officials of the company blame their troubles on "agitators and organizers who are not residents of the city of Youngstown." The strikers say their action was voluntary and no alleged "agitators and organizers" discussed the matter with them.

WORCESTER WORKERS WIN.

Worcester, Mass., April 15.—Members of the Ladies' Garment Workers' union, who have been on strike for three weeks, have returned to work. Wages are increased 10 per cent, shop committees on prices for piece work are agreed to as are arbitration provisions. The contract will continue until January 1, 1918. The question of a shorter work week and pay for overtime will be adjusted by arbitrators within 15 days.

BUILDERS RAISE WAGES.

Greenwich, Conn., April 15.—Building contractors have signed an agreement to raise wages, beginning May 1. Sheet metal workers are increased 36 cents per day; carpenters, 25 cents; plumbers and steam fitters, 14 cents; lathers, 25 cents, and painters and paper hangers, 25 cents.

NEW YORK PAINTERS WINNING.

New York, April 15.—The joint movement of painters for a $5 wage scale in Greater New York is proving successful. Contractors are crowding the union headquarters to sign the new agreement.

REST LAW INTACT.

Albany, N. Y., April 15.—An attempt to amend the one-day-of-rest-in-seven law by exempting creameries and other industries of a similar nature from its provisions has been defeated by the state assembly.

WORKING CONDITIONS BLAMED FOR ACCIDENTS

San Francisco, April 15.—The state industrial accident commision declines to accept the theory that the willful misconduct of employes is responsible for accidents.

The commission believes the mental condition of the worker, through poor food, long hours and bad working conditions makes it impossible for a man's mind and his body to co-ordinate.

During 1914 there were 62,211 industrial accidents in this state, and in answering the oft-repeated claim that "90 per cent of accidents are preventable," the commission says:

"Sixty thousand men, who can least afford to suffer and lose time and money, can scarcely be said to rush into trouble with a clear consciousness of the results. Some accidents result from foolishness; some from carelessness on the part of the injured; some are 'pure' accidents, but it seems that the best explanation is found in the almost universal lack of coordination between a man's mind and his body. That is to say, the question of accident is almost inseparable from the physiological and, consequently, the mental, condition of the man. A man with a dead liver, or a vivid imagination, makes a poor aviator or structural steel worker. A man with a leaky heart is a 'bad risk' on the top of a scaffold. The same is true with machinery. A bad bearing, or a leaky steam chest, and industry pays for it. The economy is false; cheap clothes, cheap food, cheap labor, and cheap machinery never have and never will bring the desired results. They are always more expensive in the end. If an automobile is to render the best service, it must have the best care. Likewise, with the man who labors in industry; if he is not to be a burden and a loss to industry, he must have reasonable attention. The continued recognition of this economic law and its persistent application will, no doubt, compensate society beyond its hopes."

60-HOUR BILL SIGNED.

Columbia, S. C., April 15.—Governor Manning has signed the so-called 60-hour bill despite pleas of cotton mill men to veto this legislation. The law limits the work week to 60 hours, or not exceeding 11 hours in any one day in cotton and woolen manufacturing establishments. Exceptions are made in the case of mechanics, engineers, firemen, watchmen, yard employes and the clerical force. Another exception provides that "lost time to the extent of 60 hours per annum may be made up within three months from the time same was lost."

The mill owners can't understand why the hours of their women and child workers should be interfered with, and threaten to appeal to the courts. They say the law is "unconstitutional."

Another feature of this bill, regulating "docking" of wages, is objectional to mill owners. Hereafter the wages of an operative shall not be seized on the claim that the worker is "fined." The law provides that "docking" cannot total a greater amount than the machine would have produced in the worker's absence.

OPPOSE STATE MERGER.

Springfield, Mass, April 15.—At an open meeting of the Central Labor Union a unanimous protest was made against the proposed consolidation of the state department of labor and industries, the minimum wage commission, the state board of conciliation and arbitration, and the industrial accident board. President Wrenn of the local central body said:

"Labor knows that the proposed measure which will consolidate the foremost important boards in the state is nothing less than a veiled attempt to nullify the principal labor laws of Massachusetts. Organized labor has worked too hard and too long to see the fruits of its humanitarian legislation swept aside on the pretense of economy. Any person familiar with the work which these boards are doing in this state knows that they should have their powers enlarged rather than curtailed by consolidation."

Trade unionists in other sections of the state are conducting a similar agitation.

"ILLEGAL" STRIKERS WIN.

Leadville, Col., April 15.—Employes of the American Smelting and Refining company have had their wages raised.

About a month ago workers in the Leadville and Pueblo plants of this company struck to enforce a wage increase of 50 cents a day. They ignored the state law which provides for 30 days' notice, and were threatened with all sorts of dire things—including the state militia—by Governor Carlson and members of the state industrial commission, because they had "violated a law" by quitting their employment.

Other officials offered saner counsel, however, and the strikers returned to work on a promise that their claims would be investigated.

CREDIT GIVEN TRADE UNIONS.

Iowa City, Iowa, April 15.—Dr. Lorin Stuckey of the department of economics, Iowa state university, has written a book on "The Iowa State Federation of Labor," in which it is stated that practically all reform legislation in this state was first advocated by Iowa trade unionists. Included in the list is the Australian ballot, bureau of labor statistics, workmen's compensation, compulsory education, child labor laws, the state tuberculosis hospital, parcel post system and laws protecting workers in shops, mills and mines.

PAINTERS BREAK OPPOSITION.

Sioux City, Iowa, April 15.—The Painters' union has secured the signature of a large contracting firm to an agreement. This is the first break in the employers' ranks since they locked out their employes, over a year ago.

WILL ARBITRATE DISCHARGE.

Woburn, Mass., April 15.—The five-days' tie-up of the Woburn division of the Bay State Railway company is ended by the company agreeing to arbitrate the discharge of a conductor. The Street Car Men's union claims union activity was responsible.

PASS SUFFRAGE BILL.

Albany, N. Y., April 15.—The state senate has passed a resolution providing for a resubmission to the voters of the women's suffrage question, which was rejected by the people last fall. The measure has been adopted by the assembly.

GAINS BY BREWERY WORKERS.

La Crosse, Wis., April 15.—The Brewery Workers' union has increased wages $1.50 a week and secured improved working conditions.